

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵: A61K 31/12, 9/14	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 94/14426 (43) International Publication Date: 7 July 1994 (07.07.94)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB93/02646 (22) International Filing Date: 23 December 1993 (23.12.93) (30) Priority Data: 9226905.9 24 December 1992 (24.12.92) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE WELL- COME FOUNDATION LIMITED [GB/GB]; Unicorn House, 160 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): DEARN, Alan, Roy [GB/GB]; Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent DA1 5AH (GB). (74) Agent: ROLLINS, Anthony, John; The Wellcome Foundation Limited, Langley Court, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BS (GB).		(81) Designated States: AU, BG, BR, BY, CA, CZ, FI, HU, JP, KR, KZ, LV, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SK, UA, US, UZ, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: ATOVAQUONE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS (57) Abstract The invention relates to microfluidised particles of atovaquone and to a method of preparing them. More particularly, the invention is concerned with a pharmaceutical composition containing microfluidised particles of atovaquone which has improved bioavailability and its use in therapy.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

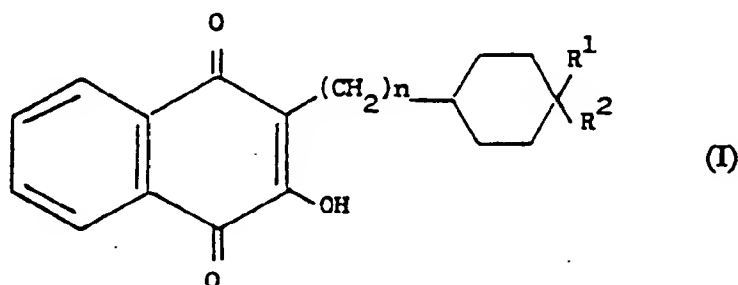
Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	GB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DE	Germany	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
FR	France			VN	Viet Nam
GA	Gabon				

ATOVAQUONE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

The present invention relates to microfluidised particles of 2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)cyclohexyl]-3-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone and to a method for preparing them. More particularly the invention is concerned with a pharmaceutical composition containing microfluidised particles of 2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)cyclohexyl]-3-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone ("atovaquone") and its use in therapy.

Atovaquone has previously been disclosed, for example in European Patent No. 0123238 and US Patent No. 5053432 (incorporated herein by reference) which relates to 2-substituted-3-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinones of formula (I):



wherein either R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is selected from C_{1-6} alkoxy, aralkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl- C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenyl substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen and C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen and perhalo- C_{1-6} alkyl or R^1 and R^2 are both C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl, and n is zero or 1, and physiologically acceptable salts thereof. The compounds are said to have antiprotozoal activity. Specifically, compounds of formula (I) wherein n is zero are said to be active against the human malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum and also against Eimeria species such as E. tenella and E. acervulina, which are causative organisms of coccidiosis and compounds of formula (I) where n is 1 are said to be active against protozoa of the genus Theileria, in particular T. annulata or T. parva. Amongst the compounds specifically named and exemplified is the compound of formula (I) wherein n is zero, R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is 4-chlorophenyl, i.e. atovaquone.

EP 0362996 discloses the use of atovaquone in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia.

Further uses of atovaquone against Toxoplasmosis and Cryptosporidiosis are disclosed in European patent application nos. 0445141 and 0496729 respectively.

The efficacy of atovaquone as a therapeutic agent is limited by its bioavailability. Accordingly it is an object of the present invention to provide atovaquone in a more bioavailable form.

It has now been found that the bioavailability of atovaquone can be increased by ensuring that the particle size is within a certain defined range of small particles. However, conventional methods of reducing the particle size of atovaquone were found to be unsuccessful in producing particles of the size required to improve bioavailability.

The Microfluidiser has been marketed by the Microfluidics Corporation since 1985. The principle of its operation is based on a submerged jet technology. It was designed, primarily, as a homogenizing device for use in the food and pharmaceutical industries, for the preparation of e.g. emulsion and liposomal systems and has subsequently been used for cell-rupture purposes in biotechnology applications.

It has now surprisingly been found that microfluidised particles of atovaquone produced using a Microfluidiser have improved bioavailability of the compound. It is believed that this is due to the small size and narrow range of sizes of the microfluidised atovaquone particles.

During operation of the Microfluidiser, the feed stream is pumped into a specially designed chamber, in which fluid streams interact at very high velocities and pressures. Fixed microchannels within the interaction chamber provide an extremely focussed interaction zone of intense turbulence, causing the release of energy amid cavitation and shear forces. Without wishing to be bound by theory it is believed that since all product passes through a dimensionally fixed area of energy release, greater size uniformity and smaller sizes are achieved by using the Microfluidiser rather than conventional methods for producing fine particles.

Thus, in a first aspect, the present invention provides small particles of atovaquone. Preferably the particles are microfluidised particles. Suitably at least 90% of the

particles have a volume diameter in the range of 0.1-3 μ m. Preferably at least 95% of the particles have a volume diameter in the range 0.1-2 μ m.

In a second aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising particles of atovaquone and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefor wherein at least 95% of the particles have a volume diameter in the range of 0.1-2 μ m. Preferably the particles are microfluidised particles.

The carriers must be acceptable in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formula and not deleterious to the recipient thereof.

According to a third aspect, the present invention provides a method for the preparation of microfluidised particles of atovaquone which comprises mixing atovaquone with a liquid vehicle to provide a mixture wherein the concentration of atovaquone is less than 450mg/mL and subjecting said mixture to at least 3 passes through a Microfluidiser in order to provide the atovaquone in the form of particles wherein at least 90% of the particles have a volume diameter in the range 0.1-3 μ m. Preferably at least 95% of the particles have a volume diameter in the range 0.1-2 μ m.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of:-

- a) mixing atovaquone with a liquid vehicle to provide a mixture wherein the concentration of atovaquone is less than 450mg/mL.
- b) subjecting the mixture to at least 3 passes through a Microfluidiser to provide a microfluidised preparation wherein the atovaquone is in the form of particles and at least 95% of those particles have a volume diameter in the range 0.1-2 μ m.
- c) mixing the microfluidised preparation with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefor.

Suitably, the mixture is subjected to 10-50 passes through the Microfluidiser, e.g. 25-30 passes. Preferably the mixture is subjected to 15-25 passes through the Microfluidiser.

In one embodiment, the liquid vehicle is a surfactant. Preferably, the liquid vehicle is a surfactant solution. In a particularly preferred embodiment the surfactant is Poloxamer 188 solution. In another preferred embodiment the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include a suspending agent. Suitable suspending agents include methyl cellulose and xanthan gum. Preferably the suspending agent is xanthan gum.

Pharmaceutical formulations include those suitable for oral and parenteral (including subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular and intravenous) administration as well as administration by naso-gastric tube. Suitable formulations within the scope of the present invention include, for example, solid dosage forms such as tablets and liquid dosage forms, such as suspensions, which are preferred formulations. The formulation may, where appropriate, be conveniently presented in discrete dosage units and may be prepared from the microfluidised particles using methods known in the art of pharmacy.

Tests to measure the bioavailability of atovaquone in vivo indicate that formulations of microfluidised atovaquone have improved bioavailability compared to prior art formulations. The invention therefore provides, in a further aspect, formulations comprising microfluidised atovaquone for use in therapy, in particular in the treatment and prophylaxis of protozoal parasitic infections, e.g. malaria and toxoplasmosis, and infections caused by *P. carinii*.

The invention will now be further illustrated by the following non-limiting examples:-

Example 1

Preparation of Microfluidised particles of atovaquone

Atovaquone was prepared by methods according to the prior art, e.g. US patent no. 5053432 (incorporated herein by reference). 600mL of a mixture consisting of 2.5% w/v atovaquone in 0.25% w/v aqueous Celacol M2500 was prepared and 100mL were retained in a glass jar as a control. A laboratory scale model 120B Microfluidiser was connected to a 90 psi pneumatic supply and adjusted to produce a fluid pressure of 15000 psi. The machine base, interaction chamber and pipework of the Microfluidiser

were immersed in a bath of cold water. 500mL of the mixture were loaded into the Microfluidiser's bulk vessel and passed through the Microfluidiser interaction chamber before being returned to the top, and side, of the bulk chamber. The mixture was recirculated continuously through the interaction chamber, and samples were taken at 10, 20, 30, 45 and 60 minutes. The number of passes to which each of these samples had been subjected was calculated and is shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Microfluidisation</u> <u>time</u> (minutes)	<u>Sample Volume</u> (ml)	<u>Number of passes</u>
Control	0	100	0
1	10	105	8
2	20	105	9-19
3	30	110	31-35
4	45	105	65-77
5	60	35	142-244

Microscopic observations of the control and samples at 40x magnification were made and the results were as follows:-

- Control - Varied shapes, plates, rods and spheroids, around 5x5µm generally and up to 7.5x10µm, loosely aggregated.
- Sample 1 - More rounded smaller shapes, some "large" crystals, lots of small fragments 2.5x2.5µm, more dispersed.
- Sample 2 - More rounded, smaller shapes, more fragments.
- Sample 3 - Still more rounded, smaller shapes, more fragments.
- Sample 4 - Yet more rounded, smaller shapes, more fragments.

Sample 5 - Very small particles, all under 2.5µm, all rounded, monodisperse.

Example 2

Pharmaceutical Formulation

An oral suspension formulation was prepared by mixing the following ingredients:-

Microfluidised particles of atovaquone	150.0mg
Poloxamer 188	5.0mg
Benzyl alcohol	10.0mg
Xanthan gum	7.5mg
Purified water	to make 1.0mL

Example 3

Biological Test

Nine healthy fasted male volunteers received single doses of 5mg/mL suspensions containing 250mg atovaquone as a 3µm mean particle size suspension and 1µm Microfluidised suspension in a randomised crossover study. Plasma samples were taken at intervals up to two weeks after the last dose and assayed by HPLC. The results are given in table 2 below:

TABLE 2

	<u>3μm suspension</u>	<u>1μm suspension</u>
mean(SD)AUC	95 (62) μ g/mL.h	247(85) μ g/mL.h
mean(SD)C _{max}	1.2(0.7) μ g/mL	5.0(1.6) μ g/mL
median T _{max}	5 hours	1 hour

The mean (95% CI) increase for the AUC of the 1 μ m suspension relative to the 3 μ m suspension was 2.6-fold (1.9-3.5) and for C_{max} was 4.1-fold (2.5-6.6).

CLAIMS

1. Atovaquone in the form of particles wherein at least 95% of the particles have a volume diameter in the range 0.1-2 μ m.
2. Microfluidised particles of atovaquone.
3. Microfluidised particles of atovaquone wherein at least 95% of the particles have a volume diameter in the range 0.1-2 μ m.
4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising particles of atovaquone and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefor wherein at least 95% of the particles have a volume diameter in the range of 0.1 - 2 μ m.
5. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4 wherein the particles are microfluidised particles.
6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4 or claim 5 in suspension form.
7. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 4 to 6 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include a suspending agent.
8. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the suspending agent is xanthan gum.
9. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 4 to 8 for use in therapy.
10. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 4 to 8 for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of protozoal parasitic infections and infections caused by *P. carinii*.
11. A method for the preparation of microfluidised particles of atovaquone according to claim 2 or claim 3 which comprises mixing atovaquone with a

liquid vehicle to provide a mixture wherein the concentration of atovaquone is less than 450 mg/mL and subjecting said mixture to at least 3 passes through a Microfluidiser.

12. A method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition which method comprises the steps of:-
 - (a) mixing atovaquone with a liquid vehicle to provide a mixture wherein the concentration of atovaquone is less than 450 mg/mL
 - (b) subjecting the mixture to at least 3 passes through a Microfluidiser to provide a microfluidised preparation wherein the atovaquone is in the form of particles and at least 95% of those particles have a volume diameter in the range of 0.1 - 2 μ m.
 - (c) mixing the microfluidised preparation with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefor.
13. A method according to claim 11 or claim 12 wherein the mixture is subjected to 20 to 50 passes through the Microfluidiser.
14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the mixture is subjected to 15 - 25 passes through the Microfluidiser
15. A method according to any of the claims 11 to 14 wherein the liquid vehicle is a surfactant solution.
16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the surfactant solution is Poloxamer 188 solution.
17. A method according to claim 12 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include a suspending agent.
18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the suspending agent is xanthan gum.

19. A pharmaceutical composition produced by a process according to any of claims 12 to 18.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 93/02646

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 5 A61K31/12 A61K9/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 5 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO,A,91 05550 (WELLCOME) 2 May 1991 cited in the application see the whole document ---	1,2,4, 8-10,19
A	WO,A,91 04021 (WELLCOME) 4 April 1991 cited in the application see the whole document ---	1,2,4, 8-10,19
A	EP,A,0 362 996 (WELLCOME) 11 April 1990 cited in the application see claims see page 9, line 29 - line 32 see page 9, line 53 - line 55 see example 10 ---	1,2,4, 8-10,19
A	EP,A,0 123 238 (WELLCOME) 31 October 1984 cited in the application see the whole document -----	1,2,4, 8-10,19

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 March 1994

Date of mailing of the international search report

09.03.94

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Scarponi, U

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int. Application No

PCT/GB 93/02646

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO-A-9105550	02-05-91	AU-B- 637772	10-06-93
		AU-A- 4519289	16-05-91
		EP-A- 0496729	05-08-92
		JP-T- 5502435	28-04-93

WO-A-9104021	04-04-91	AU-B- 628422	17-09-92
		AU-A- 4519189	18-04-91
		EP-A- 0445141	11-09-91
		EP-A- 0567162	27-10-93
		JP-T- 4504107	23-07-92

EP-A-0362996	11-04-90	AU-B- 633836	11-02-93
		AU-A- 3994889	22-02-90
		EP-A- 0580185	26-01-94
		JP-A- 2091037	30-03-90
		US-A- 4981874	01-01-91
		US-A- 5225184	06-07-93
		US-A- 5206268	27-04-93

EP-A-0123238	31-10-84	AU-B- 574353	07-07-88
		AU-A- 2679684	18-10-84
		JP-B- 5033212	19-05-93
		JP-A- 59205341	20-11-84
		US-A- 5053432	01-10-91
		US-A- 5175319	29-12-92
